On page 10, after the second complete paragraph, please amend the section heading "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION" to read as follows:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel the previous versions of claims 3, 15-19, 21 and 22 and insert the amended versions of claims 3, 15-19, 21 and 22 as follows. (Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, marked-up versions of these claims are attached.)

3. (Amended) A private key protection system according to claim 1, wherein said signed digital data is a digital certificate.

15. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to claim 1, wherein said received digital data contains an instruction which determines how said encryption engine should encrypt or decrypt respectively.

16. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to claim 1, wherein said received digital data contains an instruction which determines which protocol is used by said device to communicate encrypted or signed data external of said device.

17. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to claim 1, wherein said display means is external to said device and controlled by said device for displaying data transmitted from said communications port.

18. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to claim 1, wherein said user operable input means is external to said device and controlled by said device to be actuated by said user in a predetermined manner.

2

19. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to claim 1, further comprising identification and authentication means actuated by said user in a predetermined manner.

21. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to claim 1, wherein said digital private key storage means is removable from said device.

22. (Amended) A digital private key protection device according to claim 1, wherein a cryptographic request is received from said external device according to a predetermined application programming interface, such that the request is performed by said PKPD using the user's private or other keys as identified by the request, but excluding the private key protection device with the result being transmitted to said external device or a predetermined destination included in said request or otherwise predetermined.